





Today's  
Advertisements.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,  
LIMITED.  
FOR KOBE (DIRECT).  
THE Company's Steamship.

"TSINAN."  
Captain Moore, will be despatched as above  
on THURSDAY, the 9th instant, at 10 A.M.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 8th September, 1896. [1388]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,  
LIMITED.  
FOR TIENTSIN.  
THE Company's Steamship.

"NANCHANG."  
Captain Fitzroy, will be despatched as above  
on THURSDAY, the 10th instant, at Daylight.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 8th September, 1896. [1371]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY,  
LIMITED.  
FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW.  
THE Company's Steamship.

"HAITAN."  
Captain J. S. Roush, will be despatched for the  
above Ports on THURSDAY, the 10th instant,  
at Noon.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
DOUGLAS LARRAIK & Co.,  
General Managers.  
Hongkong, 8th September, 1896. [1405]

THE CHINA MUTUAL STEAM NAVI-  
GATION COMPANY, LIMITED.  
FOR LONDON,  
VIA STRAITS AND USUAL PORTS OF  
CALL.

(Taking Cargo at through rates for LIVERPOOL,  
GLASGOW, CONTINENTAL PORTS,  
RIVER PLATE, &c.)  
THE Company's Steamship.

"OOPACK."  
H. Sommer, Commander, will be despatched as  
above on or about the 1st instant. To be  
followed immediately by the S.S. *Ningchow*.  
For Freight, &c., apply to  
HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 8th September, 1896. [1406]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.  
FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND  
SINGAPORE.

THE Chartered Steamer  
"KANGRA"  
having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees  
of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods  
will be delivered from alongside.  
Cargo impeding the discharge or remaining  
on board after the 10th instant, will be landed at  
Consignees' risk and expense into the Godowns  
of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and  
Godown Co., Limited, at Wharfedale.  
Consignees of Cargo from SINGAPORE and  
PENANG are requested to take IMMEDIATE  
DELIVERY of their Goods from alongside;  
such Cargo impeding the discharge of the vessel  
will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and  
expense.  
No Fire Insurance will be effected.  
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by  
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 8th September, 1896. [1407]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.  
THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship  
"LYCASPE."  
FROM BOMBAY AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named  
vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are  
being landed and placed at their risk in the  
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown  
Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each  
consignment will be sorted out mark by mark  
and delivery can be obtained as soon as the  
Goods are landed.  
Goods not cleared by the 14th instant at 4  
P.M. will be subject to rent.  
No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in  
any case whatever.  
All damaged Packages must be left in the  
Godowns and a certificate of the damage  
obtained from the Godown Company within ten  
days after the Vessel's arrival here after which  
no Claims will be recognized.  
H. A. RITCHIE,  
Superintendent.  
Hongkong, 8th September, 1896. [1431]

## Intimation.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK &  
COMPANY, LIMITED,  
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,  
HONGKONG.

## AERATED WATERS.

SIMPLE AERATED WATER.  
SODA WATER.  
LEMONADE.  
GINGER ALE.  
SARSAPARILLA.  
RASPBERRYADE, &c.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are  
made under the constant supervision of a duly  
qualified English Chemist and will bear com-  
parison with the best English Manufactures.  
Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MEN'S and  
other Large Consumers.  
Any complaints should be addressed to the  
Manager.  
Hongkong, 2nd May, 1896. [1487]

## Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED.

CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS

## AERATED WATERS.

OUR AERATED WATER FACTORY is  
fitted with the best English Machinery, embody-  
ing the latest improvements in the trade.

The Purest Ingredients only are used, and the  
utmost Care and Cleanliness exercised in the  
Manufacture throughout.

The Water used is proved by repeated  
Analyses to be Absolutely Pure.

For COAST PORTS, Waters are packed and  
placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and  
the full amount allowed for Packages and Empties  
when received in good order.

Counterfoil Order Books supplied on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is  
"DISPENSARY, HONGKONG."  
And all signed messages addressed thus will  
receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always  
kept ready in Stock:—

PURE AERATED WATER,  
SODA WATER,  
LEMONADE,  
POTASH WATER,  
LITHIA WATER,  
SARSAPARILLA WATER,  
TONIC WATER,  
GINGER ALE,  
GINGERADE.

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty or  
greasy, or that appear to have been used for any  
other purpose than that of containing Aerated  
Waters, as such Bottles are never used again  
by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.  
Hongkong, 4th July, 1896.

DEATH.  
At Shanghai, on the 4th instant, BENJAMIN  
PEEL CLOUGH, Upson-Yangtze Pilot, aged 48  
years.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1896.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

## THE CRISIS IN MANILA.

To attribute, as some seem inclined to  
do, the disturbances in Manila to the  
members of the different religious orders  
that are established in the Philippines is to  
make a very grave mistake and to mis-  
understand almost entirely the situation  
of affairs in the islands. Now, many years  
ago the Spanish Government, under  
radical and revolutionary influences,  
abolished all the religious orders in Spain  
and confiscated, wholesale, their properties  
and effects of all kinds, forbidding the  
re-opening of any monasteries and the  
acceptance of any novices. The same  
Government that swept away the Dominicans  
and Augustinians in Europe continued them  
in the full possession of all their  
rights and privileges in the Philippines,  
and of their properties, not very great in  
themselves, but the slow accumulations of  
three hundred years. Every successive  
Government in Spain during this  
century, while maintaining the law  
against the religious orders at home,  
was equally careful to confirm them  
in their powers and position  
in the Colony. These governments were  
of every class and colour—autocratic,  
constitutional, republican, radical—and most  
of them had no love for religion or for  
priests or friars of any kind. Why was  
this distinction made? Because the Phil-  
ippines were held only by and through  
the attachment and reverence felt by  
the great bulk of the native races throughout  
the islands for the members of their reli-  
gious orders, who, in their parishes through-  
out the country, were the rulers and guides  
of the people. Their modes of govern-  
ment were, perhaps, not up to the require-  
ments of the very highest modern civiliza-  
tion, but it was just, it was equitable, it was  
suited to the character and habits of the  
people. If the Spanish Government had  
destroyed the religious orders in the Phil-  
ippines, confiscated their property and  
banished the members they would not  
have had an army strong enough  
to hold the country, nor officials  
enough to have provided for one-eighth  
of the necessary appointments, nor money  
to pay them. If they could have found  
the men, Government by the Padres  
was inexpensive and absolutely free from  
oppression. We do not mean to say  
that there were no bad men among the  
Friars, that there were no cases of ill usage,  
abuse of power, oppression, &c. There  
were bad men everywhere, and good men  
sometimes make grave mistakes, but such  
instances were exceptional, and the rule of  
the monks was, and is, on the whole, suited  
to the people and most convenient for the  
Spanish Government. They have no  
reason to rebel or to encourage rebellion  
for any purpose. They have no need to  
enhance the value of their services to the  
Government by stirring up commotions  
(only for the purpose of showing their

power and influence by appealing them.  
The Spanish Government know their value  
too well. At the same time, they and  
their property and persons are wholly at  
the mercy of the Government. An Official  
Decree extending the operation to the  
Philippines of the law against religious  
orders beggars and banishes them  
tomorrow. The rebels, whoever they  
are who are in arms in the neighbour-  
hood of Manila at the present time, are  
most probably socialists, anarchists,  
and rebels against all organized  
Government—men whose success would  
mean the destruction of all peace, order,  
and good government in these fertile  
islands for many years to come. The  
Government of Spain is backward in all  
ways, is obstructive, is *antithesis* to all  
lovers of material progress in the way  
of railroads, manufactures, electric  
telegraphs and democratic institutions  
generally, but it has on the whole given a  
large measure of peace, good order, and  
material prosperity to a very large and a  
very peaceably disposed native popula-  
tion, a population which but for the  
presence of the Padres would long since  
have been used up and exterminated. Any  
one who knows the resident population of  
Manila must know well that there do not  
exist among them men competent to  
assume the reins of power under a  
new regime.

## INTERESTING CASES.

We note in the *Times* of the 31st July last  
the reports of two cases, one by THE ARMY  
AND NAVY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.,  
against Messrs. EVERETT & SONS, the well  
known News Agents, the other by EV-  
ERETT & SONS against the Co-OPERATIVE  
SOCIETY. In the former suit the Plaintiff  
Company claimed damages against EV-  
ERETT & SONS for certain irregularities in  
the supply of newspapers and periodicals  
to the Society's members in India, which  
EVERETT & SONS were bound by contract  
to transmit. In the latter, the News  
Agents sued the Company for damages for  
libel contained in a circular sent out by  
the Co-operative Society to its members,  
imputing to the Plaintiff's incompetence in  
the management of their business. In the  
first action the Society failed to recover the  
amount claimed, £57, being unable to  
show any negligence sufficient to support  
the action, and the Judge directed a verdict  
for the Defendant. In the second action  
the Society was cast in damages and by  
consent there was judgment against it  
for £100. We should not have noticed  
the cases but for the light they throw on  
the business of news agents, its complicity  
and extent, and for the answer they seem  
to afford to many complaints that we and  
many others here have to make about  
irregularities in the arrival of our favourite  
newspapers and magazines. In 1891  
when the Co-operative Society first entered  
into arrangements with Messrs. EVERETT  
& SONS the subscriptions were only £317;  
in 1892 they amounted to £1,180; in 1893  
to £1,675; in 1894 to £2,105, and papers  
sent to the number of a quarter of a mil-  
lion, to over 2,500 subscribers. That is a  
vast business, and there were only 27  
admitted irregularities in the course of the  
conduct of it, and these were attributable,  
mainly, to the Post Office. Mr. ARTHUR  
EVERETT stated in evidence that frequently  
papers arrived from the publishers only  
half an hour before the mail that was to  
carry them to India closed. Under such  
circumstances what irregularities occur are  
infinitesimal and inevitable.

## REUTER'S MESSAGES.

THE TSAR AND TSARINA IN  
GERMANY.

LONDON, September 6th.  
The Tsar and tsarina have arrived at Breslau  
where they met with a splendid reception. At  
a banquet given in their honour the Emperor  
William toasted the Tsar as "the bulwark of  
peace." The Tsar's response to the toast was  
of the briefest.

Prince Hohenlohe had an hour's audience of  
the Tsar.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN.

A French squadron has been ordered to the  
Levant where a powerful British squadron has  
already assembled.

EGYPT.

Operations on the Nile railway have been  
renewed, and twenty miles have been re-laid in  
ten days.

TURKEY.

Sir Philip Currie has returned to Constan-  
tinople.

(From *L'Avenir de Tunis*.)  
THE FIGHTING AT ZANZIBAR.

PARIS, August 28th.  
The English warships have bombarded and  
destroyed the Palace of Kallid, who returned  
the fire of the English vessels. Kallid  
has fled and taken refuge in the German  
Consulate, while the English forces occupy the  
town and are endeavouring to extinguish the  
fire caused by the bombardment and are bury-  
ing the dead. Isolated fighting is still going  
on in the suburbs of Zanzibar.

THE MANILA CONSPIRACY.

PARIS, August 24th.  
A plot has been discovered in Manila having  
for its object the separation of the Philippines  
from Spain. Many arrests have been made  
among the separatists both at Manila and in  
Madrid.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

RUMOUR has it that Mr. Cullen's amateur  
Orchestra is diligently practising, so we may  
hope to hear them before long in the City Hall.

It is notified that direct telegraphic com-  
munication with Hongkong was restored yesterday after-  
noon. The Japan lines now appear to be in  
good order.

Why is it that the fountain in front of the City  
Hall never plays? This is a question frequently  
put by visitors to this colony. If water can be  
applied for other fountains why not for the one  
at the City Hall?

ABOUT a fortnight ago the steamer *Halbhor*  
arrived at Colombo from Batavia with a cargo  
of Java sugar for Philadelphia. There seems to  
be, at present, an unusual demand for Java  
sugar in America owing to the insurrection in  
Cuba.

It is reported that Mr. J. Arnall, second  
engineer of the *Bang Seng Guan* mysteriously  
disappeared from his ship while on voyage, a few  
days ago, from Bangkok to Singapore. He was  
seen at 2.30 a.m., but half an hour later could  
not be found.

THE Hongkong "Colts" are busy looking up  
football boots and flannels preparatory to enter-  
ing for the Football Challenge Shield competi-  
tion. All having subscribed towards the shield,  
they state their intention of having plenty of fun  
for their money.

The *Strait Times* solemnly informs its readers  
that "Mr. Swettenham was not responsible per-  
sonally for the 'sic' inserted in the Government  
reprint of the Municipal petition. He did not  
know that such a thing was being done."  
Wonderful! But what if he did put the *sic* in?  
Who cares two straws? Surely the Singaporeans  
must be thoroughly sick of this sort of thing  
unless, *forsooth*, *de leur ad astra*!

THE repairs to the Kowloon Prison wall after  
the recent typhoon have been almost completed  
and the public will shortly be able to use this  
popular promenade as much as they please.  
The granite blocks have now been "keyed" so it  
may be hoped that the next blow will not dis-  
place them. Talking of repairs, nothing has  
been done to the damaged pinnacle on the can-  
opy of the Queen's Statue. Perhaps the powers  
that be contemplate getting up a public subscrip-  
tion to meet the cost of the repairs. They've  
done less sensible things before now.

We hear that a marriage will take place during  
the autumn between Staff-Surgeon W.G.K.  
Barnes, M.D., H.M.S. *Australia*, second son of  
Mr. F. K. Barnes, late Surveyor of Her Majesty's  
Dockyards and Chief Constructor of the Navy,  
and Frances Helen Agnes third daughter of  
Deputy Surgeon-General C. A. M.D., late  
Surgeon-Major 10th Hussars, of Tullaghmore  
House, Co. Cork. Dr. Barnes is well known on  
this station, having served in the *Ramblar*,  
*Egeria*, *Gibraltar*, and *Mercury* during the  
last eight years. The many friends in the  
Gorgonian East of the gallant Doctor will doubt-  
less wish him every happiness on entering on  
his new "commission."

We read in a copy of the *Stam Observer* of 29th  
ultimo that the "mail despatched from Bangkok  
by the *Kiang-wai* for Hongkong on July 14th  
was returned to the Bangkok Post Office on the  
18th August. The mail bag in question  
ad been transferred at Kohat-Chang from the  
*Kiang-wai* to the *Mongkut* (the latter  
steamer having been the first vessel to leave,  
and was by mistake not delivered at Hongkong)  
but carried back to Bangkok. The mail in  
question was again forwarded to Hongkong by  
the *Mongkut* on the 16th instant. In Hong-  
kong we have a mail launch, but it appears  
that it is used only for the big liners instead  
of collecting and taking off all mails. Can't we  
afford to run our Post Office properly?

THE other day we had occasion to call *Courrier*  
*d'Halbhor* to order about a number of false and  
wholly unfair allegations it made respecting the  
management of the Chinese Maritime Customs  
service by Sir Robert Hart and we then proved  
that as far as Frenchmen in the service are  
concerned French journals have no cause what-  
soever for raising a hue and cry about unfair treat-  
ment since you consider as very incomplete the  
truth is, however, unpalatable to our critics  
London contemporaries, which appears to have  
been very much upset by our plain unvarnished  
tale, and so in the course of a lot of hysterical  
vapourings it asserts that "Le Hongkong Tele-  
graph est un mauvais de Français." Poor  
little *Courrier*! Why you seem to have  
allowed your elastic imagination to run riot, or  
may be you lost the command of your own sweet  
tongue. By the way, how did that duel come  
off between you and the Editor of one of your  
illustrations contemporaries? If the success  
attending your efforts to "get square" with your  
adversary was commensurate with your ability  
to make "much ado about nothing" then the  
undertakers down your way must have indeed  
rejoiced and been exceedingly glad.

How is the future of the volcanic Transvaal  
Republic to be decided? No one believes that  
matters can go on as they are. No one believes  
that the two Boer Republics in South Africa  
can be allowed to throw themselves across  
the paths, if not of civilisation, at least of  
commercial progress and colonial pros-  
perity. There may be a rupture, and they may  
be compelled to do what is desirable by force of  
arms or there may be the exercise of patience,  
and the healing influence of time may bring  
about that supremacy of the British people in  
South Africa that is inevitable. It is impossible  
to say which of these courses may be  
taken, but it is seen that the Transvaal  
Government is arming, is importing arms from  
Europe in large quantities, is giving more  
employment and prominence to Hollanders, and  
is not showing any symptom of friendly feeling  
towards the British Government. In such a  
state of matters there may be an outbreak of  
fire at any time. Especially does this danger  
loom large when it is remembered that the  
Boers actually believe that they can defeat the  
British in arms, if such a contest should be  
found necessary, and that they are treating with  
 Powers that are not too friendly to Great Britain.

MEMORANDA.

TO-MORROW, 9th September.  
3 p.m.—The race for the St. Leg's Stakes, at  
Doncaster.

THURSDAY, 10th September.  
11 a.m.—English Mail closes.  
Noon—Raffles sails for London.

FRIDAY, 11th September.  
French, Indian, and Tacoma mails close.  
The Transfer Books of the Douglas Steamship Co.,  
LTD., close from this date to the 26th inst.

SATURDAY, 12th September.  
American mail closes.  
Noon—Raffles leaves for San Francisco, via  
usual ports of call.

SUNDAY, 13th September.  
Daylight—Tacoma leaves for Victoria, B.C., and  
Tacoma, via usual ports of call.  
The Transfer Books of the China Traders' Insur-  
ance Co., LTD., close from this date to the  
26th inst., inclusive.

We regret to hear that Mr. A. G. Aiken met  
with an accident last Sunday. The wheel of his  
rickshaw came off and he was thrown, falling  
heavily and breaking his collar bone. We are  
glad to hear that he is getting on as well as can  
be expected under the circumstances.

"BARRISTER OFFICE": Sorry have neither time nor  
space to-day for your reply to "An Englishman,"  
who held forth in our last issue on "British  
Policy in the Far East." Of course there are  
two sides to every question, and the side-lights  
you throw across the thorny paths of diplomacy  
will be published to-morrow, or at latest on  
Thursday.

THE Shanghai Chamber of Commerce has  
protested vigorously against the memorial of the  
Taungli Yamen to the Throne praying for  
permission to tax goods manufactured in Filatures  
and Cotton Mills in China. The Chamber has  
addressed the Doyen of the *Corps Diplomatique*  
and at the same time invoked the co-operation  
of the Doyen of the Consular Body at Shanghai.

THE race for the St. Leg's Stakes will be run at  
Doncaster to-morrow afternoon, the 9th instant.  
*St. Frusquin*, a hot favourite, has been  
scratched, so the Prince of Wales' *Perseus* is  
likely to start with a lot of money on him, while  
*Regret*, *Labrador*, *Nauvau Praya*, and, if he  
starts, *Canterbury Pilgrim*, are likely to figure  
conspicuously in the registers of the "bookies."

We publish to-day, by special permission, a  
letter from Mr. Jas. W. Davidson, the Special  
Correspondent in Formosa of our esteemed  
morning contemporary, the *Daily Press*. We  
intended to publish to-day a leader on the  
important subject so fully and conscientiously  
handled by Mr. Davidson, but unfortunately we  
have to hold it over till to-morrow owing to lack  
of space caused by the necessity for finding room  
for much interesting correspondence bearing on  
the vexed question of the rise in cable rates.

THE two small Chinese cruisers now lying in  
the harbour have evidently no intention of being  
caught napping by any stray typhoon, as their  
topmasts have been housed for several days  
past. Would it not be as well for some of our  
sailing-ship skippers to take the hint, and so  
minimise the danger of dragging during a blow?  
Could they not easily send down royal, sky-sail  
and top-gallant yards?

"How fallacious some of these proverbs are,"  
remarked the sagacious man. "Take, for  
example, that one about there being nothing  
new under the sun." "Is there anything really  
new?" said his wife. "Of course there is.  
Don't you read the papers? Don't these X  
and Y enable you to take a man and scotch  
through him?" "Yes," William, "don't you  
answer gently. But any woman could do  
that before X rays were even thought of."

## THE RISE IN CABLE RATES.

At a meeting of the Committee of the  
Shanghai Chamber of Commerce on the 2nd  
instant the following correspondence was read  
and the Secretary directed to forward it to the  
local papers for publication:—

The Great Northern Telegraph Company  
Telegraph Company Australasia & China Tel.  
Co., Limited,  
Shanghai Station.

11th August, 1896.  
Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your  
to-day's letter, and to express my extreme regret  
at the Committee's disapproval of the Com-  
pany's action in increasing the collection of  
charges for certain telegrams; more especially  
to express my regret that the increase has been  
explained in my letter of the 4th inst.  
I therefore beg to supplement the same by  
the following additional remarks:—  
The Companies' rate for telegrams between  
the United Kingdom and China, which you  
quote as an example in your letter, was fixed  
from the 1st of January, 1896, at 8 fcs. 50  
centimes, equal to 7 shillings, sterling, and col-  
lected in China with 32.00 Mexican, which was  
at that time the actual silver equivalent.

Of this amount about one-half is collected for  
the account of other Telegraph Companies in trans-  
it, over whose lines the telegrams pass in transit,  
and has to be accounted for by the Companies in  
gold.  
When silver commenced to decline in value  
in the East, 10 per cent. was added to the  
\$2.00, from the 1st of November, 1895, to cover  
the Companies' against losses in exchange.  
This rate was maintained till the 1st of July,  
1896, when silver had shown signs of recovery,  
and was again increased to \$2.80 from the 1st  
of January, 1896, after the subsequent relapse of  
silver, and when it was becoming evident that  
no permanent recovery could be hoped for. The  
Collection rate would at that time have been  
still further increased to a figure corresponding  
with the gold rate in Europe, had it not been  
for the competition started by the Chinese  
Telegraph Administration, who on the 1st of  
March following published a \$2.00 rate for  
telegrams to Europe by their newly completed  
land lines.

It was, moreover, due to this competition, and  
not, as you assume in your letter, to any in-  
crease in the volume of messages transmitted,  
that the Companies were compelled to again  
reduce their rate to Europe to \$2.00 a word from  
the 1st of December, 1895.

The original gold rate has, however, remained  
unaltered, so that whilst a message from the  
United Kingdom to China paid 7 shillings a  
word, a message from China—between the same  
places—paid less than 4/6 a word.  
The rates have now been adjusted, so as to be  
the same from both ends, by the Companies  
undertaking at the International Telegraph Con-  
ference lately held at Budapest, to reduce their  
gold rate from 8 fcs. 50 centimes to 7 fcs. 50  
centimes, whilst at the same time collecting the full  
silver equivalent, i.e. China; and it has been  
simultaneously arranged that from the 1st of  
July next year, when the ratified International  
Telegraph Convention comes into force, the  
number of letters in a single word shall be  
increased from 10 to 12 and the number of  
figures from 3 to 4 for extra-European telegrams—  
a concession which cannot fall very materially  
to benefit the public at the expense of the Tele-  
graph Companies, as senders of telegrams will  
be enabled thereby considerably to improve and  
augment the present 10-letter Telegraph codes.

I may perhaps here be permitted to express  
my surprise that the fact of the Telegraph Com-  
panies having for a long series of years, and  
with great loss to themselves, been compelled to  
collect their gold charges at more or less in-  
sufficient silver equivalents, should now be  
advanced as an argument why they should  
continue to do so *ad infinitum*, while such is not  
the case with, for instance, the Steamer Com-  
panies and other similar concerns, who have  
been compelled to adopt exactly the same  
measure as now adopted by the Telegraph Com-  
panies, without, as far as I am aware, having  
been called to account by your Committee for so  
doing.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
E. F. ALFORD,  
Chairman.

General Chamber of Commerce,  
Shanghai, 17th August, 1896.

In conclusion, I beg leave to assure you that  
the action of the Companies has been most care-  
fully considered by the Directors, but I shall  
nevertheless not fail to lay before them the  
protest and expression of the views recorded in  
your letter under reply.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
J. HENNINGSEN,  
Manager.

E. F. ALFORD, Esq.,  
Chairman,  
Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

General Chamber of Commerce,  
Shanghai, 13th August, 1896.

Sir,—The Committee thank you for your  
prompt reply to their letter of the 11th instant,  
though they regret that you show no further  
reason for the increase of Tariff than that  
previously assigned, viz., that you have resolved  
to adopt the parity of gold charges.

It would serve no useful purpose to occupy  
time in discussing the similarity or otherwise of  
your position with that of "Steamer Companies  
and other similar concerns," and the Committee  
will therefore not follow you in the many lines of  
controversy such arguments might lead to.

It would, however, interest the Chamber to  
know why the increase of 37 1/2 per cent. on  
homeward rates was not concurrent with the  
decrease of 12 1/2 per cent. promised on outward  
rates; the former came into abrupt operation on  
1st August, 1896, whilst the latter is deferred  
until 1st July, 1897.

As regards local messages, whilst recognising  
the probability that the Chinese lines enjoy the  
larger share of support, it seems to the Committee  
that if the newspapers are correct in announc-  
ing that the profits of the Administration are  
24 per cent. per annum, an increase of 100 per  
cent. in your charges is, to say the least,  
excessive.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
E. F. ALFORD,  
Chairman.

J. HENNINGSEN, Esq.,  
On behalf of the  
Great Northern Telegraph Co.,  
Eastern Extension A. & C. Telegraph Co.  
Present.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company Australasia & China Tel.  
Co., Limited,  
Shanghai Station.

14th August, 1896.  
Sir,—I note with much regret from your yester-  
day's letter that the reasons given in your former  
letter for the increase in the collection of  
charges for certain telegrams have not proved  
satisfactory to your Committee, and that it would  
interest the Chamber to know the reason why  
the increase on homeward rates was not con-  
current with the decrease promised on outward  
rates.

In reply I can only repeat the statements made  
in my letter of the 11th inst. that the Companies  
are no longer prepared to continue the collection  
of their gold rates at a more or less insufficient  
equivalent in silver, whilst the provisions of the  
 Budapest International Telegraph Convention  
including the reduction of the Companies' gold  
rates will only come into operation from the 1st  
of July next year simultaneously with the other  
concessions made to the public, as mentioned in  
my said letter.

With regard to the concluding paragraph of  
your letter under reply, I am unable to verify  
the statements made by the newspapers that the  
profits of the Chinese Telegraph Administration  
are 24 per cent. per annum, but even assum-  
ing this to be correct, I must be permitted to  
point out that these profits have been de-  
rived from the revenue of all the Chinese Ad-  
ministration's lines and stations (about 200) in  
China, whilst the Companies do not participate  
with them in the local traffic (other than be-  
tween their four cable-stations viz., Shanghai,  
Fochow, Amoy, and Hongkong, so







